



CARTOON MOVIE WRAPS UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EDITION

European animation continues to be in good shape, showing a sustained growth in production and gaining ground in the changing audio-visual geography, as was demonstrated in the 22nd edition of Cartoon Movie, which ended up on March 5 in the French city of Bordeaux. The 66 feature film projects in different stages of production presented to the roughly 850 participants were once again the stars of this co-production forum that since 1999 has helped to strengthen the production and distribution of animated feature films in Europe.

ANIMATION WITH EUROPEAN LABEL

Animation production continues to gain ground throughout the region, as suggested by the 26 European countries presenting projects. With 23 selected films, French animation has once again confirmed its leadership, with 4 projects of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, second pole of animation production in France after Paris. Spain doubled its presence compared to last year's edition with 9 projects, while Germany came in third with 6 films, and Denmark presented 5 (the Nordic Countries together had 7 projects).

Music, history, literature, and graphic novels were once again an important source of inspiration. The projects, many of which are co-productions from their inception, include stories with strong female characters and friendship plots, as well as dramas, comedies, documentaries, and coming of age films.

Although animation for family audiences continues to prevail on the European production map with 56% of the selected projects, the films aimed at Young Adults/Adults remained strong with 21%, while animation for Children represented 15%.

TEN PROJECTS TO KEEP TRACK OF

The ten pitching sessions that drew the most interest among buyers and investors at Cartoon Movie were:

- **CALAMITY, A CHILDHOOD OF MARTHA JANE CANNARY.** Rémi Chayé's second film after his debut ("Long Way North"). Based on the American historic figure of Calamity Jane, the film is a co-production between France and Denmark

- **THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER.** A new collaboration between director Fernando Trueba and designer Javier Mariscal (“Chico & Rita”). A co-production between Spain and the UK, the film has been described as a musical political documentary thriller.
- **SIROCCO AND THE KINGDOM OF THE WINDS.** Produced by France’s Sacrebleu Productions, it’s a poetic film written by Benoît Chieux (“Aunt Hilda!”) and Alain Gagnol, and directed by the former.
- **VERTE** An adaptation of Marie Desplechin's children's novel starring an 11-year-old girl who refuses to follow in the footsteps of her mother, who is a witch.
- **THE ADVENTURES OF PIL.** A new production by TAT productions, the Toulouse-based studio behind the successful “The Jungle Bunch” and “Terra Willy”.
- **THE INVENTOR.** A film for family audiences written and directed by Jim Capobianco (writer of "Ratatouille"), and produced by the French company Foliascope.
- **DETECTIVE KIBBLES.** First animated feature film by French comedian and film director Benoît Delépine; co-directed with Frédéric Felder. A family comedy starring animals and men produced by La Station Animation.
- **MOLESWORTH** UK’s Lupus Films production directed by Uli Meyer. It’s based on the characters of the Molesworth books, which were written by British cartoonist Geoffrey Willans and illustrated by Ronald Searle in the ‘50s. The film is co-produced by Melusine (Luxembourg).
- **THE NEIGHBOURS OF MY NEIGHBOURS ARE NEIGHBOURS OF MINE** by Léo Marchand & Anne-Laure Daffis, an atypical comedy for all audiences produced by French studios Lardux Films and Bordeaux based Marmitafilms.
- **THE ISLAND,** an animated musical for adult audiences directed by Romanian director Anca Damian (“Marona's Fantastic Tale”) that takes a poetic approach to deal with the tragedy of the migrants and refugees flood from Africa and Arabic countries into Europe.

FROM THE BOOK TO THE SCREEN

Collaboration between the publishing and animation sectors continues to grow, as was demonstrated in this new edition of Cartoon Movie, in which nearly a third of the projects were literary adaptations. The line-up included successful book adaptations by writers such as John Yeoman Julia Boehme, Marie Desplechin, Amelie Nothomb, and Andri Snær Magnaso; as well as graphic novels by Patrick Sobral, Roc Espinet, Romain Renard, and Tomasz Samojlik. The publishers present at Bordeaux were interested both in offering books for their adaptation and in acquiring projects’ rights for their publication. They showed interest in “Calamity, a childhood of Martha Jane Canary”, “Mu Yi”, “The Inventor” and “Nordic Ghost Hunters” amongst others.

THE GRAND DUCHY OF ANIMATION

This year’s spotlight was on Luxembourg animation. In less than thirty years, the Grand Duchy animation has made an international name for itself thanks to its ambition, its reliability, the skills of its professionals, and the co-production opportunities made available by tailor-made public funding mechanisms. This policy has made it possible for Luxembourg studios to participate in recent releases and projects in production, such as “Funan”, “Pachamama”, “The Breadwinner”, “The Swallows of Kabul”, “White Fang”, and “Where is Anne Frank?”. This year’s Cartoon Movie selection included two feature films by Luxembourg producers: “Molesworth” (co-produced by Melusine Productions), and “Ooops! The Adventure Continues...” (co-produced

by Fabrique d'Images). Supported by Film Fund Luxembourg, the spotlight helped to raise the visibility of some 12 animation studios in Luxembourg.

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTOR AND PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

During Cartoon Movie, European animation professionals have paid tribute to the protagonists of the year with the presentation of the Cartoon Tributes, the awards that recognise the work of European animation professionals. Announced on Thursday 5 March, the winners in each of the three categories -European Director, Distributor, and Producer of the Year- were voted by the participants at Cartoon Movie. Among the winners there are some of the most relevant award-winning films over the past year, as well as companies that have substantially contributed to the development of the European animation industry. This year's Tributes went for:

- **DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR:** Zabou Breitman & Éléa Gobbé-Mévellec for "The Swallows of Kabul" (France).
- **DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR:** Lumière (Belgium)
- **PRODUCER OF THE YEAR:** Xilam Animation (France) / Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma (France) for "I Lost my Body" by Jérémy Clapin.

EURIMAGES CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Cartoon Movie has also granted the Eurimages Co-production Development Award, a cash-prize of 20,000 € conceived to promote the Fund's role in encouraging international animated co-production from a project initial stage. Chosen among nine projects in development selected in Cartoon Movie, the prize went for "Fleak", a film produced by Anima Vitae (Finland) in co-production with Animoon (Poland), and Godo Films (France).

SUPPORTING THE NEW GENERATION

In order to integrate young talent into the animation industry, Cartoon Movie implements an annual program for students from the region's animation schools and the Spotlight's country. Through lectures, master classes and presentations throughout a day, the Coaching Programme is conceived as a training experience in project presentations and professional participation in Cartoon Movie. Coordinated by Agnès Bizarro, students analyze topics such as the importance of making good pitching sessions, as well as case studies of projects successfully presented at previous events.

CARTOON GAMES

As in previous years, Cartoon Games took place before the opening of Cartoon Movie with the aim of creating synergies between the animation, video games & transmedia industries. This year's event not only staged the usual one-to-one meetings, but also the keynotes "Producing animated films with games' technology" by Mathieu Muller (Unity Technologies / France) and "A 360 storytelling approach mixing Games, Comics and Animation" by Sean Patrick O'Reilly (Arcana Studios / Canada).

Save the date!

CARTOON MOVIE's 23rd edition will be held in Bordeaux from March 9 -11, 2021.

Photos of the event available on CARTOON's album at Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/35940214@N05/albums/72157713348779491>

Stills of the projects available for downloading in the Press Area:

<http://www.cartoon-media.eu/home/press-login.htm> - Password: cmbordeaux2020

About Cartoon Movie

Since 1999, 365 films have been financially supported by Cartoon Movie with a total budget of 2.4 billion euros. Cartoon Movie is an annual forum aimed at strengthening the production and distribution of animated feature films in Europe organised by CARTOON with the support of Creative Europe - MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bordeaux Metropole, Invest Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the City of Bordeaux and le Pôle Image Magelis.

CARTOON – European Association of Animation Film is an international non-profit association based in Brussels that organises Cartoon Movie, together with Cartoon Forum, a co-production forum for animated TV series, and Cartoon Masters training seminars.

Cartoon Movie Director:

Annick Maes - annick.maes@cartoon-media.eu - Tel: (+32) (0)2 242 93 43

International press:

Gerardo Michelin - gerardo@latindie.com - Tel: (+34) (630) 57 22 68

French press:

Nathalie Collin - nathalie.collin@coklicotcommunication.fr - Tel: (+33) (0)6 50 91 93 37